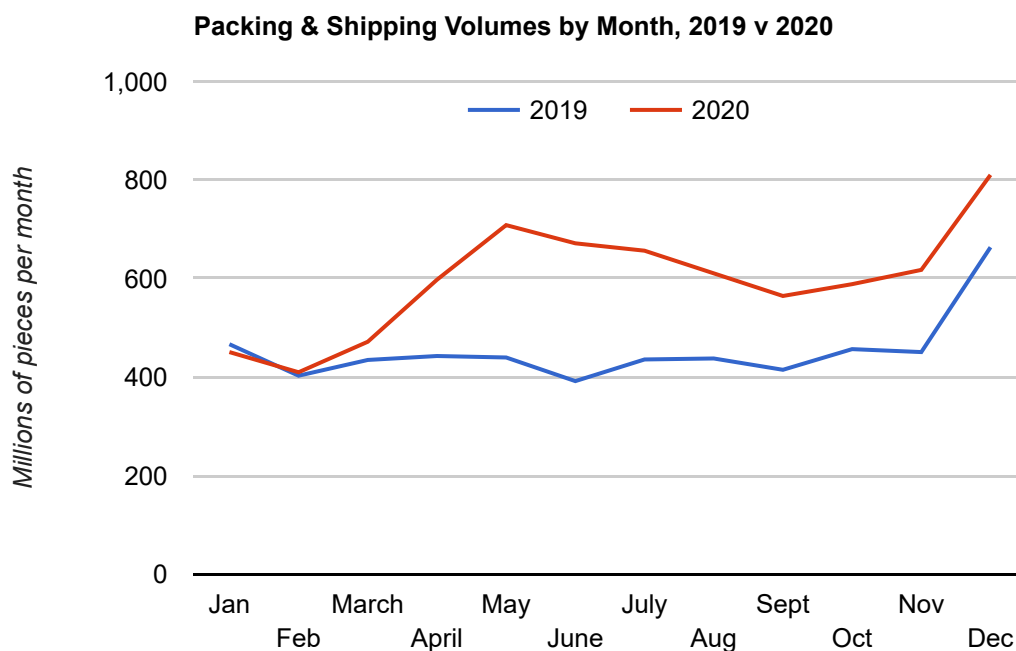


This chart shows that extra trips declined significantly in mid-July, and remained below normal until November, when they began to increase gradually. As the holidays approached, the extra trips jumped back up to 20,000 a week. For the final four weeks for which we have data, the total was 64,000, just about the average number of extra trips per month for the two-year period.

Package Volumes

One of the Postal Service's main explanations for the mail delays is the surge in package volumes. Here's a chart showing package volumes during calendar years 2019 and 2020. (It's based on the monthly financial reports the USPS files with the PRC, [here \(https://www.prc.gov/dockets/usps_reports\)](https://www.prc.gov/dockets/usps_reports); for easier access, they're on Google Drive [here \(https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1WjDTntEupfkz-Sy2gB6k-Z5DJGUZVZNV?usp=sharing\)](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1WjDTntEupfkz-Sy2gB6k-Z5DJGUZVZNV?usp=sharing).)



As this chart shows, since April 2020, package volumes have been at the levels they saw during the holidays in 2019, and during the holidays 2020, they reached record levels.

Air and Surface Transportation

In Response to [ChIR No. 2](#)

(<https://www.prc.gov/docs/115/115883/ChIR%20No.%202%20Responses.pdf>), Question No. 1, the Postal Service explained another cause for the mail delays: “As commercial air has not returned to pre-COVID-19 service levels, the number of flights has declined significantly, and this constricts the amount of air space available for the transportation of mail. With air capacity constrained, the Postal Service is forced to